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Attorney General's Office fights drug nuisances one property at a time
Sussex County drug haven closed in latest enforcement action

Wilmington, DE – The Attorney General's Office announced today that it has secured the closure of a Sussex County property under Delaware's Drug Nuisance and Social Vices Abatement Act. At a temporary abatement hearing on July 29, Superior Court Judge E. Scott Bradley found that the property, at 8855 Cedar Creek Road, in Lincoln, owned by Lillie Mae Lewis, presented a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the community and ordered it to be closed immediately.

"This property is a classic example of why Attorney General Biden's Nuisance Abatement Program exists," stated Lawrence Lewis, State Solicitor. "The owner was repeatedly warned of the illegal activity and continued to allow it to occur. As a result of this action, the surrounding community will not have to deal with the dangers associated with drug dealing."

Within the last eight years more than 60 calls have been made to Delaware State Police regarding complaints of physical violence, sexual misconduct, gunfire, drug transactions, and sexual abuse at this property. State Police brought this activity to the attention of the Attorney General's Nuisance Abatement Program, which conducted an investigation and sought the property's closure in Court.

In addition to ordering the property to be closed, Judge Bradley ruled that any lease associated with the property is void and that all involved parties are to have no contact with the property until a permanent abatement hearing takes place at some point in the future.

In August, 2007 Attorney General Biden announced an expanded statewide effort to reduce crime using Delaware's newly enhanced Nuisance Abatement Act. Enforcement actions under the Nuisance Abatement Act can take a variety of forms, including closure of the property. The Delaware Department of Justice identifies nuisance properties statewide through its own investigations and cooperation with state and local police agencies, local authorities, civic associations, and residents. The Department works to abate those nuisances, either by obtaining a court order or through securing the voluntary cooperation of the owner to clean up the illegal activity.

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